

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

March 9, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

This week, the Milwaukee Connector study committee voted to fund a study of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett's plan to spend the \$91.5 million in federal funds allocated to improve transit in Milwaukee County.

The decision to allocate time and money on Mayor Barrett's transit plan is flawed. We do not need to spend more than half of the \$91.5 million the federal government has allocated for transit in Milwaukee County on a fixed trolley system that only serves a 3-mile area in downtown Milwaukee.

This system will do nothing to address the transit needs of those in our community who rely on transit to get to jobs, school, and to go shopping. Worse, this system will take scarce resources away from the current transit system that people need.

A better approach is for us to move forward on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that both the City and County already agree on. We need to push for a system that will actually benefit people who need transportation, not on one that will only benefit visitors and a select group of white-collar workers downtown.

Scott



Economic Study Shows Zoo has Significant Impact on Area



At a press conference Wednesday, County Executive Scott Walker and Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser announced the results of an Economic Impact Study conducted by the UW-Milwaukee Institute for Survey and Policy Research.

The study concluded that the total estimated direct and indirect impact of the zoo on the four-county area is \$112.1 million in output, \$38.1 million in earnings, and 1,297 jobs, and that the Milwaukee County Zoo is not only one of the finest zoos in the country but also a major contributor to the economy of the area.

"This study validates the commitment the county has made to the zoo," said Walker. "The Milwaukee County Zoo is not just a quality of life asset of the county, but an important part of our regional economy."

[Click here](#) to read the study.

Walker Welcomes NYPD Officers to Milwaukee



On Thursday, County Executive Scott Walker participated in a press conference to kick off the St. Patrick's Day Parade weekend. This year, the parade will feature 90 members of the New York Police Department. The officers presented Walker with an NYPD t-shirt (above).

Walker will again be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which takes place on Saturday, March 10, starting at noon. [Click here](#) for more information on the parade.



County's CIO Takes New Position in Oregon



County Executive Scott Walker presents a proclamation to CIO Bud Borja

County Executive Scott Walker presented outgoing Chief Information Officer Bud Borja with a proclamation honoring his service to Milwaukee County.

Borja has accepted a position as the Chief Information Officer for the State of Oregon Judicial Branch. Mary Reddin, Deputy Chief Information Officer, will serve as acting CIO.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Domes

Children and family members are invited to "The Wearing of the Green" at the Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Boulevard, on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17 from noon to 5pm. This day of celebration and fun will feature all things Irish including dancing, singing, displays, crafts and savory Irish food and treats.

Go to www.countyparks.com for more information.